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PATENT APPLICATION
USSN 10/004,316

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REMARKS

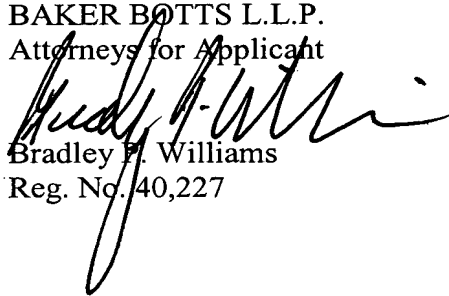
Prior to a first Office Action, Applicant requests amendment of the Claims as set forth in this paper. Inasmuch as this application has yet to receive a first Office Action, the present amendment is not made to overcome any rejection of a claim or claims.

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

With the addition of Claims 25-28, an additional filing fee of \$120.00 is due. A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384.

Respectfully Submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:
forming an entry well bore from the surface;
forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone; and
forming a substantially horizontal drainage pattern from the slanted well bores into the subterranean zone.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the two or more slanted well bores are radially spaced approximately equally around the vertical well bore.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein three slanted well bores are formed.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the three slanted well bores are radially spaced around the vertical well bore approximately 120 degrees apart.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal drainage patterns comprise lateral well bores.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the lateral well bores are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the horizontal drainage patterns to the surface.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in each of the slanted well bores proximate to the subterranean zone.

9. A guide tube bundle, comprising:
two or more guide tubes;
wherein the two or more guide tubes comprise a first aperture at a first end and a second aperture at a second end;
wherein the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other; and
wherein the longitudinal axis of the first apertures are offset from the longitudinal axis of the second apertures.

10. The guide tube bundle of Claim 9, wherein the guide tubes are twisted around one another.

11. The guide tube bundle of Claim 10, wherein the twist comprises approximately 10 degrees.

12. The guide tube bundle of Claim 9, wherein:
the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other at the first ends;
and
the guide tubes are separated at the second ends.

13. A method for orienting well bores, comprising:
forming an entry well bore from the surface;
inserting a guide tube bundle into the entry well bore, the guide tube bundle comprising:
two or more guide tubes, wherein:
the two or more guide tubes comprise a first aperture at a first end and a second aperture at a second end;

the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other; and
the longitudinal axis of the first apertures are offset from the longitudinal axis
of the second apertures; and

forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore, through the guide
tube bundle.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein:
the first aperture of each guide tube is oriented horizontally; and
the second aperture of each guide tube is oriented at an angle relative to the first
aperture.

15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the guide tubes are twisted around one
another.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the twist comprises approximately 10
degrees.

17. The method of Claim 13, wherein:
the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other at the first ends;
and
the guide tubes are separated at the second ends.

18. A system for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:
an entry well bore extending from the surface;
two or more slanted well bores extending from the entry well bore to the subterranean
zone; and
a substantially horizontal drainage pattern extending from the slanted well bores into
the subterranean zone.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the two or more slanted well bores are radially spaced approximately equally around the vertical well bore.

20. The system of Claim 18, further comprising three slanted well bores.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the three slanted well bores are radially spaced around the vertical well bore approximately 120 degrees apart.

22. The system of Claim 18, wherein the horizontal drainage patterns comprise lateral well bores.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the lateral well bores are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

24. The system of Claim 18, further comprising an enlarged cavity in each of the slanted well bores proximate to the subterranean zone.

Please add the following new claims:

25. (New) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming two or more slanted well bores extending to the subterranean zone, the two or more slanted well bores formed from a common drilling pad; and

forming in the subterranean zone one or more substantially horizontal drainage patterns each intersecting at least one of the slanted well bores.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, and further comprising:
conducting fluid to the two or more slanted wellbores by a drainage pattern; and
collecting the fluid in two or more slanted well bores and pumping the fluid to the surface.

27. (New) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming an entry well bore from the surface;

forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone; and

forming in the subterranean zone one or more substantially horizontal drainage patterns each intersecting at least one of the slanted well bores.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, and further comprising:

conducting fluid to the two or more slanted wellbores by a drainage pattern; and

collecting the fluid in the two or more slanted well bores and pumping the fluid to the surface.